

Appendix 3

Interviews with Representatives from Other NHAs

Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area

Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor

Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area

Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor

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May 2, 2008

Phone interviews were conducted with representatives from four different NHAs to ask basic questions about NHAs and the effects the designation has had on the communities.

Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area (Iowa)

Don Short, Director

1) How has the area benefited from NHA designation?

- A number of ways
- As it is a federal designation by congress, there is a lot of clout
- Increased capabilities to leverage funds
- An increase in visitation to the region which has helped economically
- More tax revenues
- Set up a network of partner sites to tell the story of agriculture
- 106 partner sites, small and large
- Resources are now more easily available to smaller sites
- Signage attracts travelers to rest areas, where information kiosks direct persons to partner sites

2) How have decisions been made on how to focus efforts stemming from NHA designation?

- Received designation in 1996, a long time with limited resources
- Began with 4-5 people in Waterloo, Iowa as the region was very dependent on manufacturing and economic revitalization was necessary
- Other people became involved and it jumped from a 7 county, to a 17 county effort and upon designation it became a 37 county area
- Huge signage effort
- A lot of public involvement was included in the Feasibility Study
- Interpretive plan developed which led to the writing of a management plan

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3) Have there been any local people opposed to getting the designation?

- Not that I know of
- Some opposition as people do not understand NHAs and assumed there were property right issues. But no NHAs have eminent domain. In order to acquire property they would have to go through the market like anyone else would. Silos and Smokestacks do not own any real estate (including our own office building), nor do we plan to.

4) Have there been any strings attached with the designation? Any federal control/restrictions?

- Anytime federal funds are used, we must follow rules of NPS (e.g., NEPA, section 106 for historic preservation). However these are just regulations for spending federal money and would apply for any federal money, regardless of NHA designation.

5) Have there been any negative consequences of getting the designation?

- Just dealing with people's misconceptions of the program as many people did not understand it
- Overall the reception has been very positive

Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor (Pennsylvania) **Allen Sachse, director**

1) How has the area benefited from NHA designation?

- Access to NPS funding
- Recognition of significant resources, local agencies recognize importance of resources
- Branded as park service partner

2) How have decisions been made on how to focus efforts stemming from NHA designation?

- Management plan + local partners
- Management plan outlines the time frame for taking certain actions
- Partners were sought out, whoever was within the time frame to compile initiatives
- If partners had projects and local match grants were available, that moved to priority

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3) Have there been any local people opposed to getting the designation?

- No, I don't remember any organized or individual opposition
- There was significant local support

4) Have there been any strings attached with the designation? Any federal control/restrictions?

- No new federal controls
- With federal money, there are certain things you can or cannot do
- No power was given to the management entity to supersede local decisions
- Communities did not have to be involved in the NHA if they were not interested
- Management entity could not purchase or own land ourselves. Any properties or things like signage were owned by partners.
- Management entity began as federal commission, but switched to nonprofit in order to have more access to grant funding
- Out of all NPS designations, NHAs carry the least restrictions. For example, with Wild and Scenic Rivers designations, NPS commits more strongly.

5) Have there been any negative consequences of getting the designation?

- Haven't seen any in almost 20 years.
- Has only seen the opposite. The NHA keeps getting more recognition and support.

Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area (Arizonia)

Charles Flynn, director

1) How has the area benefited from NHA designation?

- 3 projects:
 - 110 acre site that was old city landfill was reclaimed and restored into a park with river access
 - 1400 acre wetland restoration project called Yuma East Wetlands with 16 landowners and 28 stakeholders. People that did not get along previously began to cooperate. Initially people were suspicious of federal government. However, it was made clear that this was a cooperative, voluntary venture

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which brought people into the loop who had initially been hesitant. So far there have been obvious signs of success. A private foundation also got interested and asked the management entity to expand their geographical scope of wetland restoration to an area where there was a lot of illicit activity/violence. They got an award from an international economic development council.

- Downtown Yuma revitalization strategy. 20 acres of land along the riverfront. Some of the land was in boundary of a national historic landmark. In order to ensure development retains historic character, all parties voluntarily agreed to keep with historic guidelines. This had marketing appeal for the developer. A \$32 million Hilton garden center is under construction which connects to 6 miles of biking trails as well as 5 miles of hiking trails in East Wetlands. This should help further tourism numbers.

2) How have decisions been made on how to focus efforts stemming from NHA designation?

- Usually where willing partners existed as partners gravitated towards projects and helped shape and guide it. The Indian tribe is a strong partner.

3) Have there been any local people opposed to getting the designation?

- No, there was fear about 5 years ago regarding NHAs, but it lessened as people began to see it as voluntary. Farm Bureau got on board who are now strong advocates.

4) Have there been any strings attached with the designation? Any federal control/restrictions?

- None – zero. The only way to get the designation is to make it clear that you won't use federal money for obtaining land. Go through the planning process and as long as the money is being used to advance the plan, it is incredibly flexible.
- In fact there is an example where the NHA was more attractive than a federal alternative that was proposed. Fish and Wildlife Service tried to impose a critical habitat area in the same region. This was viewed by community members as a very restrictive project with minimum benefits in the end. The NHA presented a way to better improve habitat without federal government control. The management entity is a private, nonprofit, community based organization.

5) Have there been any negative consequences of getting the designation?

- No. All about partnerships, collaborations. Only have about \$200,000-\$300,000 in federal funds per year so it is necessary to leverage further funds.

**Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor (Illinois)
Ana Koval, President and CEO of Canal Corridor Association**

1) How has the area benefited from NHA designation?

- Brought everyone together and helped talk across government lines
- Huge effect on how people do business, build partnerships
- Sufficient improvements have been made to the area since receiving the designation in 1984 in regards to tourism increases, natural and cultural preservation, and more. Goals have been sufficiently met. There are more historic buildings and cultural institutions, and more trails. Though there is always more that could be done, it just depends on money.

2) How have decisions been made on how to focus efforts stemming from NHA designation?

- In the reauthorization process, put together a new management plan which developed visions. Many groups were involved and a lot of projects were proposed. We had to decide and tried to spread it over a wide geographic range. Public ends up voting specifically on which projects should be pursued.

3) Have there been any local people opposed to getting the designation?

- Nothing in terms of private property, no local land use authority/restrictions
- Initially there was some hesitation from industry. The area is part of the rust belt and there are a lot of steel mills. There was concern about restricting businesses. However, through public education efforts the business leaders got on board.
- Once designated, no opposition. When getting reauthorized, no opposition as people saw value in working together.

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4) Have there been any strings attached with the designation? Any federal control/restrictions?

- No. Funds have been provided and seed money towards sponsoring projects that fulfill the goals of the legislation (heritage tourism, historic preservation, natural area preservation, economic development). Not allowed to buy land/property.

5) Have there been any negative consequences of getting the designation?

- No, we have a lot of community support which we worked hard to gain.

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